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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by guest Chaplain Rev. Dr. Charles W. Starks, district superintendent of the Wytheville, VA, district of the United Methodist Church.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

As we pray, we remember the wisdom of Proverbs 24:10, "If you falter in times of adversity, your strength is too small."

O loving and eternal God, we are humbled and grateful for the privilege of gathering here in Your presence. We lift up to You our President, Barack Obama, and Vice President, JOE BIDEN. We lift to you, O God, each elected, appointed, and employed public servant at each level of government across these United States.

And this day, O God, we particularly intercede on behalf of the women and men of this Senate. We pray for these Senators to stand in unity of purpose, like great and sturdy trees in the face of the swirling and perilous storms of this day. We ask for the roots of their strength, courage, and wisdom to be nourished in Your abundant grace, even the grace of Jesus, who reminds us to treat others in the same manner we desire to be treated. From that rich grace, O God, allow these Senators the privilege of bearing good fruit which will be a blessing to the people of this great land and Your entire good Earth.

O God, we lift this prayer to You, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer who loves us this day and for all times. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK L. PRYOR led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 26, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. PRYOR thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act. At 10:30, the Senate will proceed to a rollcall vote in relation to the Kyl amendment regarding retrocession. Additional rollcall votes are expected to occur throughout the day.

Last night, I filed cloture on the bill. If we are unable to complete action on the bill today, the cloture vote will occur tomorrow. Under rule XXII, the cloture rule, the filing deadline for germane first-degree amendments is 1 o'clock today.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 478, S. 482, H.R. 1105

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand there are three bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the titles of the bills for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 478) to amend the National Labor Relations Act to ensure the right of employees to a secret-ballot election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board.

A bill (S. 482) to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

A bill (H.R. 1105) making omnibus appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would object to any further proceedings with respect to these bills en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bills will be placed on the calendar.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HOUSE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 2009

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 160, which the clerk will report by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 160) to provide the District of Columbia a voting seat and the State of Utah an additional seat in the House of Representatives.

Pending:

Ensign amendment No. 575, to restore second amendment rights in the District of Columbia.

Coburn amendment No. 576 (to amendment No. 575), of a perfecting nature.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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